

Forrest-Marbury House
3350 "M" Street, N. W.
Georgetown, D. C.

HABS No. DC-68

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington 25, D. C.

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Present Owner: Mrs. Margaret Shafer

Present Occupant and Use: Apartments and Business

Description: Like the Key House which stood nearby, this building appears originally to have been two and a half stories in height. Brickwork of the present third floor does not match Flemish bond below (more noticeable above second floor lintels, doubtless marking location of original cornice). A few years ago the present owner installed a modillion cornice across the front reproducing salvaged sections which may have remained from the original.

Structure has been divided into apartments, but the stair is in excellent condition. Interior woodwork exhibits interesting combination of raised paneling together with the plain recessed type. There are dog-eared doorways and windows. 8/8 sash in rear is apparently original. An interesting detail too, is an exterior dog-eared window trim.

Examination disclosed one cast-iron chimney cap, which can probably be taken as a clue to those remaining of the same design. The foundation is stone and the rear leanto (not being bonded with the main block), was doubtless a later addition. The rare photographic view of 1860 shows the building with telescoping wing, a portion of which remains today and to which access is had through a hallway partitioned-off from the front upstairs room.

Historical Data:

This building was witness to important decisions relating to the establishment of the Federal City. Colonel Uriah Forrest had served with Washington in the Revolution. As a leading citizen of Georgetown, partner with Major Benjamin Stoddert, whom the President had entrusted with confidential dealings, he occupied a position of influence. Forest and Stoddert were both "original proprietors". It was a memorable day at 3350 M Street when President Washington was entertained at dinner, following the historic meeting with Commissioners and landowners at Suter's Tavern on March 29th 1791 (See Washington's Diary).

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About 1800 the Forrests moved to their country place, "Rosedale", disposing of this house to William Marbury. Marbury was a gentleman of importance in local affairs, recalled chiefly for his connection with the celebrated law case, Marbury vs Madison. The Marburys entertained lavishly and from all indications, it was they who enlarged and added to the home early in the 19th century.

References:

Eberlein, Harold D., and Cortlandt van Dyke Hubbard,
Historic Houses of Georgetown. Richmond, 1958, pp. 17-21.

Prepared by: Russell Jones and Worth Bailey, HABS, National Park
Service, April, 1959.

Approved: _____

Dick Suttin
Chief Architect

Date 10/22/59